ACT 85— GO, KATOU. I'LL FLY IN YOUR STEAD.

UGH... I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING.

WHAT DID YOU DO?!

THAT WAS THE FLASH OF THE CAMERA FROM AN AUTOMATON CALLED FLASH JIMMY... I USED UP ALL OF ITS ENERGY OUTPUT...

THAT MOMENTARY FLASH WAS PROBABLY BRIGHTER THAN THE SUN. YOU MIGHT BE A SHIROGANE, BUT YOUR BURNED RETINAS WILL STILL TAKE SOME TIME TO HEAL.

O-OKAY.

GRIPPON-KUN, CAN YOU RELAY MY WORDS TO HIM?

DAMMIT... WHO ARE YOU? ARE YOU AN ENEMY?

WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?

I'M A SHIROGANE, JUST LIKE YOU. I CAME HERE AT GUY'S REQUEST.

THEY CALL ME CHIMNEY SWEEP.

CAN YOU PICK UP THE AUDIO, MR. FOU?

AHH!

WHAT ARE THEY TALKING ABOUT?

2

KATOU, I HAVE A HISTORY WITH FACELESS.

I'LL FIGHT HIM, AND FORCE HIM TO COUGH UP THE CURE FOR ZONAPHA SYNDROME.

YOU SHOULD STAY ON EARTH.

THAT'S WHY...

...YOU CAN'T COME BACK ONCE YOU GO UP THERE...

I'M A VETERAN WHO HAS PLENTY OF COMBAT EXPERIENCE. I'M FULLY EQUIPPED AND FAR STRONGER THAN YOU.

GRIPPON-KUN, KEEP GOING!

M-MAS-TER...

CUT THE CRAP!

YOU'RE BLIND NOW, SO RELAX AND STAY PUT HERE ON EARTH.

HUHUH, THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN THE CASE FOR YOU, BUT I HAVE A SUREFIRE WAY OF COMING BACK.

...FROM A TEACHER WHICH YOU SAVED BACK IN FRANCE.

...I'LL RELAY A MESSAGE FOR YOU...

ALL MY FIGHTING SO FAR WAS FOR THE SAKE OF STOPPING ZONAPHA SYNDROME!

...WHAT THE HELL CAN I DO HERE ON EARTH?!

"PLEASE, BE SAVED YOURSELF NEXT TIME."

...?!

THAT WOMAN?

ACCORDING TO HER, YOU ARE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO'D BURN HIMSELF OUT FOR OTHERS... AND END UP DISAPPEARING SOMEDAY...

.....HUH?

SHE WANTS YOU TO BE SAVED THE NEXT TIME!

THAT'S WHY!

WHICH IS WHY...

SO MANY PEOPLE GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR MY SAKE...

I... HAVE SEEN SO MUCH SORROW...

I CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONE ALLOWED TO BE HAPPY...

YOU IDIOT!

THE PAST IS LONG GONE! YOU CAN'T CHANGE IT ANYMORE!

BUT YOU CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE PRESENT!

I KNOW THERE'S SOMEONE OUT THERE THAT YOU CAN MAKE HAPPY!!

FOLLOWING YOUR LOGIC... NOT A SINGLE HUMAN COULD EVER BE HAPPY...

SOMEONE I CAN MAKE HAPPY?

...ME...?

...THEN THIS WORLD WOULD JUST BE FULL OF PEOPLE NEVER ALLOWED TO BE HAPPY!!

IF PEOPLE HAD TO LIVE THEIR LIVES IN THE PRESENT BEARING THE BURDENS OF THE PAST...

I'LL FLY IN YOUR STEAD.

GO, KATOU.

THE PRESENT... IS WHAT MATTERS.

USE YOUR HEART TO THINK IT THROUGH... ABOUT WHO YOU CAN MAKE HAPPY... FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR OWN HAPPINESS, AS WELL.

ZSHH

WAIT, CHIMNEY SWEEP!

SHIT, DON'T DECIDE THAT FOR YOURSELF.

RIDICULOUS... THAT KID SAID HE'S GOING TO RIDE THE SPACE SHUTTLE!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!

YES!

HEY, BRING THAT KID HERE.

NARUMI WOULD'VE BEEN A DIFFERENT STORY...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...

PLEASE, LET HIM GO!

YOU SAW IT TOO, RIGHT? MASARU-SAN DEFEATED THAT MANY AUTOMATA...

LIESE...

...HE KNOWS A WAY TO WIN.

THEN I'M SURE...

HEIMA-SAN TOLD ME.

HE UNDERTOOK THE DOWNLOAD, BUT FACELESS WASN'T ABLE TO TAKE OVER HIS BRAIN... SO... IF HE SAYS HE WILL GO...

MR. FOU!

...SHE'S RIGHT, IT MIGHT WORK OUT.

I HAVE FAITH IN MASARU-SAN!

HE MIGHT BE QUALIFIED TO ASK ABOUT HOW TO STOP ZONAPHA SYNDROME.

NONE OF YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS, BUT THAT CHILD HAS RECEIVED FACELESS' MEMORIES VIA THE DOWNLOAD.

IN EITHER WAY... I THINK WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO ENTRUST THAT MATTER INTO HIS HANDS...

TAP

SER-GEANT.

STILL!!

AS YOU WISH, MASTER FOU.

RESUME THE LAUNCH PROCEDURES!

UGH...

HEY, I'M TALK-ING TO YOU!

THEN WHY DID YOU TELL THEM TO LET HIM GO, LIESE?!

FOU SAID THE SHUTTLE WASN'T MADE FOR THE ROCKET IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO THERE ISN'T ENOUGH FUEL FOR THE RETURN TRIP!

WHAT THE HECK, LIESE! YOU KNOW MASARU CAN'T COME BACK ONCE HE GOES TO SPACE!!

CLANG CLANG

HUH?

HEIMA-SAN...

AT THE VERY LEAST... YOU SHOULD SAY GOODBYE TO HIM...

CLANG

H-HEIMA-SAN, WHERE ARE WE GOING?

I EXPLORED THIS PLACE IN SECRET YESTERDAY. THIS IS A SHORTCUT THAT LEADS TO THE LAUNCH PAD CRAWLER TRANSPORTER!

CLANG

CLANG

GEEZ, IT'S PRETTY BAGGY ON YOU.

CAN'T HELP IT. THIS WAS THE SMALLEST SIZE THEY HAD.

BAGGY

Mr. Masaru, I'm sending a puppet maid to assist you.

YEAH.

I WAS SURPRISED MYSELF

EITHER WAY, THE CONTROL CENTER WAS REALLY LENIENT ON LETTING YOU GO TO SPACE.

HUH?!

MA-SARU-SAN!

THAT FOU MISTER TOLD EVERYONE ABOUT ME...

HUGS

YOU LIAR!

L-LIESE-SAN?!

I KNOW THE TRUTH! YOU ARE GOING BECAUSE YOU WANT TO SAVE KATOU-SAN, RIGHT?

GUY REQUESTED YOU? A SUREFIRE WAY TO COME BACK? THOSE ARE ALL LIES!

HUH?

BUT... BUT...

BECAUSE I WANTED YOU TO DO AS YOU WISHED...

I ASKED MR. FOU AND THE OTHERS TO LET YOU GO.

LIESE-SAN...

THERE'S STILL SO MUCH... THAT I WANT TO DO TOGETHER WITH YOU...

I'M A LIAR, TOO.

.....

SORRY...

AND I DON'T JUST MAKE MISO SOUP ANYMORE, I LEARNED HOW TO BAKE FISH TOO...

I WANTED US TO GO TO THE ZOO, SO WE COULD SEE DRUM TOGETHER...

I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO!!

NOT NOW THAT IT CAME TO THIS!

NO... PLEASE, DON'T SAY THAT...

NEXT WEEK, WE'LL GO TO THE ZOO TOGETHER.

GRIP

I MADE UP MY MIND.

LIESE-SAN...

LIESE-SAN...

WHEN I GET BACK, LET'S GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER EVEN BETTER!

CAN YOU MAKE SOME RICE-BALLS?

THERE'S A LOT I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT TOO.

STILL...

IT'S A PRO-MISE.

.....

LIAR...

YUP...

...DIDN'T YOU HAVE A THING FOR LIESE? WHY BOTHER LETTING HER MEET MASARU? NOW IT'S DEFINITELY AN UNREQUITED LOVE.

R-RYOUKO! WHY ARE YOU HERE?

YOU THOUGHT YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WHO EXPLORED THIS PLACE?

JUMP

.....

YOU'RE SO SILLY, HEIMA...

SHADDUP... IT'S JUST THAT... I FELT SORRY FOR HER...

...BUT, Y'KNOW... I WOULD BE GETTING IN THEIR WAY, SO...

YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT! I WANTED TO TALK WITH HIM, TOO!

ACTING COOL AGAIN?

BUT I BET YOU WANTED TO SPEAK WITH MASARU, TOO.

...HAVE A COOL SIDE.

HUUM.

I GUESS EVEN YOU...

PAT

VERY WELL, THE PUPPET MAID IS WITH MASARU.

AHAHAH.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "EVEN YOU"?!

Time until lift-off...

STARTING CONFIRMATION OF EVERY DEPARTAMENT.

MY DEAREST BRIDE, WHO WAS LED TO THIS TOWN BY THE RAILROAD TRACKS~
AFTER HER~ AFTER HER~
FLAP
TAP TAP
WHEN YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH OF FLYING IN THE SKIES, COME STRAIGHT BACK TO ME, AND LAND IN MY HEART~
FLUTTER AWAY, MY LITTLE BIRD~ OUR TIME IS OURS ALONE~
UGH...
HAH HAH
HAH HAH HAH
TAP
THUD
CLACK
OH, IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME~
AND NOW THE PRIEST IS HERE, BUT OH DEAR, MY BRIDE HAS RUN AWAY!
I TOOK THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN TOWN, PUT A WEDDING DRESS ON HER~
TODAY'S MY WEDDING CEREMONY!

I FEEL HEAVY...

NO, THAT'S NOT ALL...

DOESN'T HAVE MUCH BLOOD LEFT...

MY BODY...

HAH

HAH

HAH

HAH

HAH

HAH

HOW CARELESS OF ME...

...HE PUT THESE CLOTHES ON ME WHILE I WAS KNOCKED OUT, IT'S SO HARD TO MOVE AROUND WITH THEM.

RIP

I WAS ONLY DOING WHAT I COULD.

BUT... I DON'T REGRET IT...

ALL THAT'S LEFT IS FOR ME TO DEFEAT HARLEQUIN, EVEN IF IT KILL US BOTH!

URGH

IF KATOU MADE IT TO SPACE SAFELY...

I WONDER...

MAKE SURE TO FIND OUT THE CURE FOR ZONAPHA SYNDROME FROM FACELESS.

KATOU, TAKE CARE.

NOW THAT YOU'RE NO LONGER ON THIS EARTH, IT'S ABOUT TIME I SAID MY GOODBYES TO IT AS WELL.

AS FOR ME...

WAHN

WAAHN

MY BRIDE~ WHERE COULD YOU BE~

WAAHN あーん
WAAHN あーん
ARE THOSE THE CRYINGS OF A HUMAN BABY, I WONDER.
HM?
CLACK ガチャ
I SWEAR THE INTERNAL ORGANS OF A PONY ON THAT.
OF COURSE,
IF I COULD FIND SOME HUMAN BLOOD, IT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR MY WEDDING TOAST WITH LITTLE ELEONORE.
WAAHN あーん
WAAHN あーん

OPENS

UWHOA! A HUMAN WITHOUT ZONAPHA SYNDROME!

WAAHN

TMP

STOMP

TAKE A NAP, SICK OLD GEEZER!

HII

HII

STAY AWAY... DAMMED DOLL.

WOOSH

HM?

BLEGH

NOW, NOW.

CHEERS.

NOT ON MY WATCH, ACCURSED DOLL!

BLAM

WOOSH

LIVE AND BREATHE.

NOT AS LONG AS I, SHIRO-GANE...